In the interminable series of always biased and factually inaccurate columns on the holy land that by their bias and frequency alone violate traditional American concepts of decent journalism and fairness, in his "Peace promises for Jerusalem" diatribe Roy Meachum again misrepresents, deceives, misleads and is factually incorrect. And, as he has so consistently in the past, he says nothing at all about what he supposedly is writing about, in this case the so-called Arafat guarantees of the security of Israel as a state and the end of terrorism in that area.

A few of the factual inaccuracies, and the latitude ordinarily extended to columnist opinion does not include factual misstatements, he says that "Jordanians" are "foreigners" in what remains of Palestine after, as he has never once said, Great Britain established Trans-Jordan, which now calls itself Jordan to obscure what he obscures. Jordan, regardless of how Mr. Meachum misrepresents, is, as a matter of fact, 70 percent of the original Palestine territory. Moreover, more than half its population was born in the part not included in that 70 percent.

He says that Egypt's Sadat, who negotiated the Camp David peace settlement other Arabs then did not agree to after Israel returned to Egypt all it had taken in their last war, "went to his death (what a way to describe being assassinated!) a failure" because " of his inability to make himself heard above the din of domestic politics, in this country and Israel."

Sadat was assassinated, as was Jordan's Abdullah before him and as were many Palestinian Arabs who talked peace with Israel, because he had negotiated a peace agreement that gave Arabs autonomy in Gaza and Samaria and Judea, part of the original Jewish homeland now called the West Bank.

The only reason there has been no peace in that troubled land is because for more than 60 years Arabs have refused to agree to the existence of any Israeli state. In 1937 they refused even to talk about an Israeli state consisting of only 10 percent of what remained of Palestine after creation of the Arab state of Jordan from it. No matter what compromises were offered thereafter Arabs rejected them all.

The recent change is that the United States began to talk to the PLO after it supposedly got assurances that in fact it did not get. These include the guarantee of the peaceful existence of the State of Israel and the end of terrorism. These alleged assurances were not by the PLO, regardless of the widespread misrepresentations, but by Arafat personally, whatever faith can be put in the words of a man who has not distinguished himself in either truthfulness or forthrightness. And even then Arafat did not say what the U.S. pretends he said.

PLO policy decisions are made only by a two-thirds vote of its executive. That executive met only recently in Algiers and it then

Harold Weisberg

refused to make the very policy changes the diplomatically bankrupt Reagan-Bush-Schultz administrations pretend have been made. Arafat alone can't make them if he wants to. He doesn't and he didn't.

The unchanged PLO charter still calls for driving Israelis into the sea. This is the exact opposite of assuring its peaceful existence.

If you read Arafat's exact words, not those mumbled by the adminstration or entirely ignored by Mr. Meachum, he mentioned only a single "state" in that area, the one that doesn't exist, "Palestine." He did not mention the state of Israel, even though it would have been meaningless if he had. He had to fear assassination if he did. ~~he did not assure the peaceful existence of Israel.~~

For there to be a "peace promise for Jerusalem" or any other part of the holy land, there must first be an end to the PLO's determination to wipe the State of Israel out. The PLO's executive has steadfastly refused to change this stated objective, ~~eliminate these words from its charter even when~~ even as a condition of talks with the U.S. Instead, Arafat ~~mumbled~~ pretends circumlocutions and the Meachum's pontificate and misrepresent and another holocaust comes a little closer.

(The last pre-Hitler holocaust of Jews was Mohammed's, when he was unable to take Judaism over ~~and proceeded to~~ establish his own religion based in part on Judaism. Those Jews who did not escape his murdering he made either slaves or whores.)

When Mr. Meachum refers to the conditions of Arabs under Israeli control and before the he is just plain untruthful. However bad their conditions in some areas, those areas where the Arab world was able to control what required UN approval, they are infinitely better than they were under ~~external~~ Arab control and within Israel ever so much better than almost anywhere in the Arab world. The only member of the Israeli parliament who has been a member since it was established is an Arab, not a Jew. Israel established three universities for Arabs on the West Bank where Hussein had established none.

There has been no peace in the holy land only because the PLO and other Arabs decided there would be no peace. All the Muslim world remains in a state of war against Israel not because they want peace but because they don't want either peace that recognizes any Israeli state. The one exception was Arab Sadat, ~~and he was~~ assassinated for seeking peace and accomplishing a step toward it.

So far as ending terrorism goes, another Meachum avoidance, Arafat describes terrorism as done only by others, not by his murderers.

In the actualities of the Reagan-Bush-Schultz pretenses or in the misrepresentations so typical of Roy Meachum, there now is no "peace promise for Jurusalem" or any part of the holy land and there will not be without the end of Muslim determination to end the State of Israel. The words we hear are deception and self-deception only.